

PAGE 01
ACTION ARA-16

BUENOS 01584 192007Z

SSA637

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 HA-26 L-03 PM-09 PA-01
INRE-00 ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /060 W

O 191933Z MAR 82

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2828

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN

BUENOS AIRES 1584

EO 12065: GDS 3/19/88 (SHLAUDEMAN, HARRY W.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

1. (U) THE REGULAR THURSDAY WALK AROUND OF THE MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO ON MARCH 19 TURNED INTO WHAT THE BUENOS AIRES "HERALD" CALLS THE LARGEST HUMAN RIGHTS DEMONSTRATION SINCE THE MILITARY TOOK POWER IN 1976. REPORTEDLY, ABOUT 1,000 PEOPLE WERE ON HAND, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTIES. SOME YOUNG AGITATORS TRIED TO CONVERT THE RALLY INTO A MASS MARCH AGAINST THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT. THE POLICE FINALLY INTERVENED TO BREAK UP THE AFFAIR WITHOUT USING UNDUE FORCE.

2. MINISTRE OF INTERIOR SAINT JEAN HAD SCHEDULED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MARCH 19 AT WHICH HE WAS TO ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE OF A NUMBER OF PEN PRISONERS. THE PRESS CONFERENCE HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT WEEK, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL'S WORKLOAD. IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY THAT HE HAS RUN INTO TROUBLE WITHIN THE MILITARY ON SOME OF THESE CASES.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to
Date Declassify on Reason

PAGE 02

BUENOS 01584 192007Z

3. (U) MOST OF THE MARCH 19 MORNING PAPERS FRONT-PAGED THE REPORT FROM WASHINGTON ON THE STATEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN THAT THE USG HAS CONSISTENTLY URGED THE GOA TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE FAMILIES INFORMATION ON THE DISAPPEARED. ASKED FOR COMMENT, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN RODOLFO GALTIERREZ PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING: "AS MR. FISCHER HAS SAID, THE ARGENTINES MUST RESOLVE IT (THE PROBLEM OF THE DISAPPEARED) THEMSELVES. ALL THE DECISIONS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ARE ADOPTED WITHOUT FOREIGN ENCOURAGEMENT. ALSO, FOR ANY ARGENTINE ANY (SUCH) INDICATION AS TO WHAT HE SHOULD DO IN HIS OWN HOUSE WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. OUR DECISIONS ARE OURS ALONE AND ARGENTINA ACCEPTS NO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE WHATSOEVER IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

4. AS WE HAVE BEEN POINTING OUT, THE ISSUE OF THE DISAPPEARED IS BECOMING HIGHLY POLITICIZED. IN ADDITION, SAINT JEAN'S STATEMENTS ABOUT MAKING INFORMATION AVAILABLE HAS CLEARLY CAUSED UNHAPPINESS IN SOME MILITARY QUARTERS. HE IS NOW SAYING THAT THE FINAL DECISION MUST BE RESERVED FOR THE JUNTA. A POINT HE HAD NOT MADE BEFORE AND ONE THAT COULD INDICATE BACKPEDDLING. THE HEADLINES ON US "URGING" THAT INFORMATION BE PUT OUT WILL NOT HELP SAINT JEAN TO DO WHAT HE WANTS TO DO ON THAT SCORE. SHLAUDEMAN

S/S-O

S/S-O

3

840.95